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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,487	11/15/2001	Kojiro Katayama	35.G2936	7221

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EXAMINER

ISMAIL, SHAWKI SAIF

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2155

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/987,487

Applicant(s)

KATAYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Shawki S Ismail

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-40 are presented for examination.

Applicant's claim for foreign priority is acknowledged.

References in applicant's IDS form 1449 have been considered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-24, 26-34 and 36-40, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Suzuki et al.**, (Suzuki) U.S. Patent No. **6,415,392**.
4. As to claim 1, Suzuki teaches an information processing apparatus which is connected to a first local managing apparatus which is connected to an apparatus of a first type via a local network and manages the apparatus of said first type and a second local managing apparatus which is connected to an apparatus of a second type via the local network and manages the apparatus of said second type (col. 7, lines 40-55), comprising:

judging means for judging whether any trouble which has occurred is trouble in the apparatus of the first type or the apparatus of the second type (see fig. 4, col. 9, lines 30-42); and

diagnosis control means which causes one of the first local managing apparatus and the second local managing apparatus, or both the first and second local managing apparatuses, to perform diagnosis, based on a judgment result provided by said judging means (Fig. 8, col. 11, lines 5-19).

5. As to claim 2, Suzuki teaches an information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said diagnosis control means issues a diagnosis request to one of the first local managing apparatus and the second local managing apparatus, or both the first and second local managing apparatuses (Fig. 8, col. 11, 5-19).

6. As to claim 3, Suzuki teaches an information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising display control means for displaying a list of apparatuses connected to the local network on a display unit (col. 11, lines 37-49).

7. As to claim 4, Suzuki teaches an information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising first notifying means for notifying a service person to go and perform a recovery operation in the event that trouble is not determined by the first local managing apparatus or the second local managing apparatus (col. 11, line 64- col. 12, line 6).

8. As to claim 6, Suzuki teaches an information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising report generating means for generating report information

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indicating contents of the trouble in a case where the trouble is determined by the first local managing apparatus or the second local managing apparatus (col. 3, lines 32-43).

9. As to claim 7, Suzuki teaches an information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising notifying means for performing notification of a commissioning recovery operation to another company, in a case where the trouble cannot be recovered from without external help (col. 3, lines 13-24 and col. 15, lines 51-60).

10. As to claim 8, Suzuki teaches an information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus of the first type is peripheral devices, and the apparatus of the second type is computer devices (col. 7, lines 40-55).

11. As to claim 9, Suzuki teaches an information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the apparatus of the first type is at least one of printers, photocopiers, or scanners (col. 7, lines 40-55).

12. As to claim 10, Suzuki teaches an information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the apparatus of the second type is at least one of personal computers, server computers, or network devices (col. 7, lines 40-55).

13. Claims 11-14, 16-24, 26-34 and 36-40 contain similar limitations; therefore, they are rejected under the same rationale.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claim 5, 15, 25, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Suzuki et al.**, (Suzuki) U.S. Patent No. **6,415,392** in view of **Suzuki** (Suzuki 567) U.S. Patent No. **6,707,567**.

16. As to claim 5, Suzuki teaches an information processing apparatus as discussed above. Suzuki does not explicitly teach wherein said first notifying means transmits information to a portable terminal carried by the service person regarding a location to which to go to perform the recovery operation.

Suzuki 567 teaches a supervising system for image forming apparatus, and which is capable of selectively connecting a mobile computer of a service person with the communication network at a user site (see abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to incorporate Suzuki 567 mobile terminal for a service person into the invention of Suzuki in order to efficiently and correctly display service information. Since all the information a service person needs is at their fingertips, they are able to do their repair in a fast and accurate manner.

### ***Conclusion***

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shawki S Ismail whose telephone number is 571-272-3985. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shawki Ismail  
Patent Examiner  
February 7, 2005



**HOSAIN ALAM**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**